

November 6, 2001

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Esq.
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Rm. TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Permitted Oral Ex Parte Discussion
EB Docket No. 01-66, RM-9156, RM-9215

Dear Ms. Salas:

On November 5, 2001, at the request of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff, Herbert L. White, Dissemination Services Manager in the Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services of the National Weather Service (NWS), met with Kathryn Berthot, Joseph P. Casey, James A. Dailey and George R. Dillon, of the FCC regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), EB Docket No. 01-66 to amend Part 11 of the Commission's Rules on the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

During the discussion, Mr. White reiterated the NWS position that changes proposed in paragraph 24 of the NPRM are some of the most critical to improving the effectiveness of both the EAS and the NWS' NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). Mr. White opined that adopting the proposed rule changes in paragraph 24 would diminish, but not totally eliminate, the severe impacts that could result by not adopting certain portions of the NPRM or allowing retrofit of existing EAS equipment to be voluntary. For instance, Mr. White noted that not adopting the entire country location code could slow or limit improvements in forwarding National and regional emergency alerts for EAS and NWR that the NWS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been discussing since the September 11 terrorist events. It was suggested that a reason for not adding some unspecified "watch" event codes is that the events are not predictable. Mr. White stated that we should not let the current limited ability of scientists to predict an event be a reason for not adding "watch" event codes now as predictive abilities will continue to improve.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Herbert L. White